

THE BIRDS OF THE PROME DISTRICT OF LOWER BURMA.

BY

J. K. STANFORD, M.C., I.C.S.

WITH NOTES ON THE COLLECTION.

BY

DR. CLAUD B. TICEHURST, M.D., M.A., M.B.O.U., F.R.G.S.

PART II

(Continued from page 672 of this volume.)

White-Throated Bulbul (*Criniger tephrogenys burmanicus*). 345, 385.

Oates (B. B. I. 183) describes *C. griseiceps* as 'generally diffused over the hills of Pegu extending down to the towns of Rangoon and Pegu. On the western side . . . it is probably altogether absent.' In the *Fauna*, ed. i. (i. 256) the distribution of *C. burmanicus* is given as from 'Toungoo, Karen hills, etc'; in the *Fauna*, ed. ii. (i. 364) from 'hills E. of the Salwin from Yamethin to Moulmein', which is a geographical impossibility. The distribution of both forms needs further investigation.

I shot one at about 2,500 ft. on the Nyaunggyo stream on 3rd April, 1929, and another not far from the same place on 9th April, 1929. I did not see it elsewhere.

[These two birds (♂, W. 100, ♀ 99.5) are certainly not *griseiceps*, which the *Fauna* gives as inhabiting central West Burma south to Tenasserim. They are nearest *burmanicus* from Toungoo but are a little less brown on the upper parts; more specimens from Arakan are needed. *Griseiceps* was described from Upper Pegu.]

Black Bulbul (*Microscelis psaroides nigrescens*). 379.

Blyth recorded a specimen from Arakan. Oates did not meet it. I found this species common between 2,500 ft. and 3,000 ft. but only collected one, a male, on 9th April, 1929. It was nearly always seen in pairs and the long-drawn cat-like note was most noticeable.

Himalayan Brown-eared Bulbul (*Hemixus f. flavala*). 330, 356.

Oates' collectors got it in 'the hills of Arakan,' probably near Nyaunggyo. I shot two at the same place on 2nd and 4th April, 1929. Those I saw were in pairs in evergreen forest at 2,500 ft.

[I can match this with examples from Sikkim.]

Rufous-bellied Bulbul (*Hemixus macclellandi* sub-sp. ?). 329.

Blanford and Oates recorded it from Arakan.

I shot a single ♂ out of the top of a very high tree in dense evergreen forest on the Nyaunggyo stream at about 2,400 ft. on 2nd April, 1929. This was the only one seen for certain.

[This single specimen (a ♂, wing 113) does not correspond with the typical race from Assam on the one hand, nor with *tickelli* from Tenasserim on the other. It may well be that there is a distinct race in the Arakan Yomas but further specimens must be obtained.]

Burmese Red-vented Bulbul (*Molpastes hæmorrhous burmanicus*). 159.

The common bulbul of the plains in Prome district. It is said by Blyth to occur in Arakan, but it was conspicuous by its absence above 1,000 ft. on the Taungup road in April 1928-29. Very great numbers roost together in cane-brake jungle near Prome.

Burmese Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Otocompsa jocosus erythrois*). 229.

Oates remarks that it abounds 'in the whole of Pegu except the portion lying between Prome and Thayetmyo, where it is very rare or absent altogether.' I should say without hesitation that it was confined to the southern half of the district, along the Irrawaddy valley, and by no means common. I saw a pair on the Letpanbu *jheel*, the most northerly point at which I saw any. None was seen in the Arakan hills in either 1928 or 1929. It is a bird which frequents not gardens or villages but dry scrub jungle near the river, and is very local.

[This is *O. emeria peguensis* of the *Fauna*.]

Black-crested Yellow Bulbul (*Otocompsa flaviventris*). 387.

Oates describes it as common through Pegu and 'not easily overlooked.' I found it exceedingly common and conspicuous (in fact it was the most common Bulbul) in the Arakan hills in 1928 and 1929 where it was breeding in April, but nowhere else. Subsequently I found it common lower down the Pegu Yomas in the Insein district, so that I do not think I overlooked it over the greater part of Prome district. A nest with one egg found in a mango tree at Nyaunggyo in mid-April 1928, the bird of which I could not identify, was almost certainly that of this bird (Stuart Baker *in litt.*). On 9th November, 1929, it may be worth recording that a very large gathering of these birds appeared in my garden at Insein and moved on an hour later. These were, I think, undoubtedly migrants.

[This single bird is more olive, less golden above, and paler, and less rich yellow below than the typical race; a ♀, wing 83.5. A further series is desirable.]

Olive Bulbul (*Iole olivacea virescens*).

Oates describes it as plentiful in Pegu 'except in the dry portion near Thayetmyo and Prome where it appears to be absent.' I saw none but may have confused it with *Pycnonotus blanfordi*.

Blanford's Olive Bulbul (*Pycnonotus blanfordi*). 46, 167, 191.

Very common all over the plains; not seen in the hills.

Black-headed Bulbul (*Microtarsus m. melanocephalus*).

According to Oates it is found only in the southern portion of Pegu. I never saw it at Prome.

Slaty-bellied Wren (*Tesia cyaniventer cyaniventer*). 328.

Oates does not record it south of Manipur. I obtained a female on 2nd April, 1929, at Nyaunggyo (2,400 ft.) and was quite unaware, till later, of its identity or could have collected others. This bird was feeding in bushes on a bank in evergreen jungle and uttering a single note, twice or thrice repeated. On 9th April, near the same place, I watched one hopping about and singing on the ground in dense undergrowth, a very powerful and sweet song of seven or eight notes, and so ventriloquial that it took me ten or fifteen minutes to locate it, though it was within a few yards of me.

[In this female the head is coloured as the back; I cannot distinguish it from Sikkim examples.]

Burmese Stone-Chat (*Saxicola caprata burmanica*). 138.

Very common all over the plains and foot-hills. I did not see it above 500 ft. Breeds in pea-fields in the Irrawaddy valley in February and March. Appears to be a resident, but in January 1929, I noticed nothing but males. I have noticed this with the British Stone-Chat and it is possible that the sexes winter apart.

Japanese Bush-Chat (*Saxicola torquata stejnegeri*). 42.

Oates describes it as a very common winter visitor. I saw considerable numbers, but it was mainly confined to the Irrawaddy valley, in the drier sandy land.

[Paler on the breast than most *indica*; *stejnegeri* usually but not quite always has a broader and stouter bill than *indica*.]

White-tailed Bush-Chat (*Saxicola torquata leucura*). 50, 57.

Oates describes it as 'somewhat rare' and only got it a few miles south of Thayetmyo, but quotes Blanford as saying that it is a constant resident along the Irrawaddy. I saw many obviously paired and apparently breeding in long grass on the Irrawaddy islands in February and March. The female much resembles a Spotted Flycatcher and not a Chat at all

Western Dark-grey Bush-Chat (*Oreicola ferrea ferrea*). 213, 419.

Oates (i. 283) states that he got *O. ferrea* once near Prome. This record is not apparently accepted by Stuart Baker (ii. 38), or was subsequently corrected. Henricks shot a ♂ at Ngaphaw in the foot-hills of the Pegu Yomas on 25th February, 1929 (200 ft.), and another at Sinda on 15th March, on the west bank of the Irrawaddy, both in low hills covered with scrub.

[These two birds are quite indistinguishable from N. W. Himalayan birds.]

Jerdon's Bush-Chat (*Oreicola jerdoni*).

Oates saw it in March at Letpadan (B and O. 11. 66.) in the Tharrawaddy district considerably south of Prome district. This is very probably why Stuart Baker records it as extending 'as far as Prome.'

Spotted Forktail (*Enicurus maculatus guttatus*).

Oates (i. 26) records it from Manipur and Arakan and says he got it at Nyaunggyo, and 'had no doubt it was common.'

I saw two or three pairs in company with the next species near Nyaunggyo and obviously breeding, but failed to obtain one.

Black-backed Forktail (*Enicurus immaculatus*) 369, 407.

Oates (i. 25) found it on both sides of the Pegu Yomas and very common in all the mountain streams. The only two forktails which I obtained at Nyaunggyo were males of this species, but I am satisfied that *guttatus* also inhabited exactly the same streams. I saw a single forktail at a tiny pool of foul water at about 1,500 ft. on the eastern slopes of the hills, in burnt jungle, this pool being probably the only water of any kind for many miles. It undoubtedly breeds in the Arakan hills, but I was unable to find a nest.

Chinese Red-spotted Bluethroat (*Cyanosylvia suecica robusta*). 45, 35.

Oates (i.15) found it common in Pegu from November to May, in tracts covered with dense elephant grass. Large numbers frequented the swampy reed-beds of a small stream on the Nawin marshes in January 1929. They were exceedingly shy and skulking, but, if watched quietly from a distance, would come out and hop about on the marsh like Redbreasts. Not seen after March, and most of them had probably disappeared by that time.

[Three males wing. 75.5-77.5; bill 17-17.5. Tips of primaries exceed secondaries by 15-20 mm. Large birds, very dark and grey on upper parts. These match well birds from various parts of China.]

White-tailed Blue Robin (*Notodola leucura*). 401.

Up to 1890 it had not been recorded south of Manipur, except in Karennee and Tenasserim. I shot a single male at Nyaunggyo on 12th April, 1929, which flew silently out of bamboo jungle on to a path. This bird is probably not rare but overlooked in the country it frequents.

Indian Magpie-Robin (*Copsychus saularis saularis*). 160, 286.

Very common and resident. I have seen it hawking flying ants with Drogos. Not seen in the Arakan hills in April 1928 or 1929.

Shama (*Kittacincta malabarica malabarica*). 79, 360.

Found up to 2,500 ft. in the Arakan hills in dense bamboo jungle where, judging by its song in the evenings, it is extremely numerous but rarely seen. The only two nests I have seen were both in artificial holes in large bamboo posts. One held incubated eggs on 5th April and the other, made largely of horsehair, was built in May in a post of my stable, despite almost hourly disturbance by syces. This bird deserted after sitting some days.

[This is *K. macroura indica* of the *Fauna*. Kloss has pointed out that the oldest name for this bird is *malabarica* of Scopoli. 1786.]

Orange-headed Ground-Thrush (*Geocichla c. citrina*). 342.

Oates described it as found throughout the whole of Burma, and resident. He found it breeding in May and June, apparently in the plains. I saw several near Nyaunggyo between 2,500 ft. and 3,000 ft. in evergreen forest in April 1928 and 1929, apparently paired and breeding. One bird attracted me by its song from some distance off and was feeding on a 'Nyaung-bin'. It is remarkably fearless of man, but if it sits motionless, is easy to overlook.

Mountain-Thrush (*Oreocincla dauma dauma*). ♀ 370.

Oates got it on the Pegu hills in April. Henricks shot a single female at Nyaunggyo on 6th April, 1929, in evergreen bamboo jungle.

Lesser Brown Thrush (*Zoothera marginata*).

Oates (i. 8) got one in the Arakan hills, 'where Mr. Blyth first got it I believe. I have not observed it in Pegu'.

I shot one of a pair on the Nyaunggyo stream in April 1928, but did not preserve it, nor did I see any in 1929.

[Specimens of this bird are very highly desirable as it was from Arakan that Blyth described the species.]

Burmese Blue Rock-Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*). 33, 211.

Oates (i. 11) describes it as 'found abundantly over the whole of British Burma during the cold season', arriving in October and leaving in March. It is a very silent and unobtrusive bird and frequently seen on bungalow roofs at this time. I saw one at Nyaunggyo on 14th April, 1928, which was possibly on migration.

[These two females might be equally *pandoo* or *affinis*. W. 117, 118.]

Himalayan Whistling-Thrush (*Myiophonus t. temminckii*).

Oates describes it as found 'on the Arakan hills and its spurs, nearly down to the Irrawaddy'. I saw several on the streams near Nyaunggyo in April 1928 and 1929 where they were undoubtedly breeding, and it possibly comes lower down in the rains. I failed however to find a nest, and on being disturbed, they would vanish at once into evergreen jungle, where they would sit motionless for long periods. I regret that I failed to obtain any, but have little doubt they were of this race.

Sooty Flycatcher (*Hemichelidon sibirica gulmergi*). 390, 395.

Oates describes it as a rare winter visitor over the whole of Burma. I saw several at 3,000 ft. along the road near the Taungup Pass on 10th April, 1929, and shot another in bamboo jungle on the 11th April. Those seen on the 10th appeared to be single males or pairs, and I thought they were probably breeding.

[The race of Sooty Flycatcher wintering in Burma is, according to Mr. Stuart Baker, *H. s. cacabata*. These two birds however I cannot in any way separate from N. W. Himalayan birds. The distribution given for *gulmergi* in the *Fauna* is N. W. Himalayas from Afghanistan to Gharwal, but this is only the summer distribution; where it goes in winter is not stated.]

Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Siphia parva albicilla*). 22, 85, 175.

Oates observed it in Pegu from mid-November to the end of March and states that it was recorded from the Thounyin valley in mid-September.

The earliest I have seen was on 17th September, 1928, but it is common by early October.

This bird is the most abundant of the flycatchers throughout the cold weather but is nearly always seen singly. Though a great number are probably scattered over one stretch of jungle, one rarely if ever sees two birds together. It leaves in late March or April.

[It is stated in the *Fauna* that the females and young (1st winter) birds are not distinguishable from those of *parva*. Most of them including these four birds are quite distinguishable by the colder, greyer, brown upper parts and the whiter under parts suffused with grey on the breast instead of creamy white suffused with buff.]

Blue-throated Flycatcher (*Cyornis rubeculoides dialilæma*). ♂, ♀, 164, 217, 376, 405.

According to Oates, very common in winter. I did not find it very common in Prome but shot a female at 300 ft. near Ngapaw on 26th February and others on 7th and 12th April, 1929, at Nyaunggyo, where I saw several which appeared to be in their breeding haunts.

[A pair from the plains and a pair marked as breeding from the Arakan hills seem to be the same. The males have an inverted V wedge of rufous running up into the blue of the throat. The females are quite as in *rubeculoides*. These correspond with *dialilæma* well. From Arakan, Messrs. Kinnear and Robinson (Novit. Zool. 34, p. 233) have described a race of *rubeculoides* as *rogersi*. A female of this race examined by me seems very distinct with markedly warm brown upper parts. The Nyaunggyo female obtained by Mr. Stanford and thought to be breeding does not correspond at all with the female of *rogersi*.]

Verditer Flycatcher (*Stoparola m. melanops*). ♂ ♀, 118, 168.

Henricks obtained a female at Tarokmaw on 4th February and a male near Prome on the Irrawaddy on 15th February. I did not observe it.

Grey-headed Flycatcher (*Culicicapa c. ceylonensis*). ♂ ♀ ♂, 201, 335, 374.

Oates remarks: 'In Upper Pegu apparently confined to the hills alone.' Henricks shot a ♂ near Prome on 15th February, and I saw a good many in the Arakan hills in open tree jungle in April, 1929. They appeared to be breeding and were very tame, flying all round an intruder at close quarters.

Northern Indian Black-naped Flycatcher (*Hypothymis azurea styani*). ♀♀, 19, 381.

Probably common and resident. One was obtained near Paukkaung on 18th January, and a single female at 2,400 ft. on 8th April at Nyaunggyo.

Burmese White-browed Fantail Flycatcher (*Rhipidura aureola burmanicus*). 319.

Oates described it as uncommon except in the northern part of Pegu near Thayetmyo.

I shot a male at Hmawza on 30th March, 1929, out of a flock in *indaing* jungle.

White-throated Fantail Flycatcher (*Rhipidura a. albicollis*).

Oates says it breeds in 'May, June and July'; Stuart Baker says, 'March to July'. I should say it was fairly common and resident. I saw a pair on the Nyaunggyo stream at 2,400 ft. with a fledged young one on 2nd April, 1929.

Burmese Shrike (*Lanius colluroides*). Local name *Hugetsat*. 1, 69, 127, 158.

Oates remarks on its abundance in the Prome District, where I found it common and widely distributed, in the cold weather. Oates says it is absent or very rare from the middle of March to the end of June. I certainly noticed its almost total disappearance by mid-March. Not seen in the Arakan hills in April, 1928 or 1929.

[These birds in January and February all show some moult on the underparts and appear to be completing a body moult. The wings and tails have not been recently moulted.]

Brown Shrike (*Lanius c. cristatus*). 70, 266.

Oates describes it as a common winter visitor. Henricks obtained a male on 24th January, 1929, at Kandin on the Rangoon road, and I obtained one near Prome on 11th March.

[The March bird is in very worn dress and moult not yet begun.]

Grey-backed Shrike (*Lanius schachetophronotus*). 357.

Oates did not meet it, but it was recorded from the Arakan hills by Blyth. The only Shrike seen by me in the Arakan hills in 1929 was a single ♀ for this species at Nyaunggyo on 4th April.

[This bird is just finishing a complete moult on 4th April.]

Indian Black-headed Shrike (*Lanius n. nigriceps*).

Oates observed it at Prome. I imagined I saw it but all the specimens collected were *colluroides*.

Black-backed Pied Shrike (*Hemipus picatus*). 148, 149.

Oates describes it as resident over the whole of Pegu but by no means common and not recorded from Arakan. I only saw it twice, a small flock in *indaing* jungle near the northern border of the district (both those obtained were males) on 11th February, 1929, and a pair at 3,000 ft. on the Arakan hills near the Taungup Pass on 10th April, 1929.

[These males are in immature dress of first winter and the race indeterminate.]

Nepal Wood-Shrike (*Tephrodornis gularis pelvica*). 350, 355, 375.

Oates describes it as a constant resident over the whole of Pegu. I found it nowhere except between 2,400 ft. and 3,000 ft. in the Arakan hills where it was still in small parties in early April. Of one party, I noticed that individuals sat bolt upright and had the typical swearing note of a shrike and did not resemble *pondiceriana* in habits at all.

[One of these April specimens is a bird of the previous year and has the tail feathers much narrower than in adults; the outer tail feathers show the curious wavy markings which young shrikes show. The lores and ear coverts are brown instead of black. In all the grey of the head is confined to the crown thus showing a tendency to *pelvica*, on the other hand, the size is rather small (wing, 114-120) for that race in which the wing measures 115-130 mm. thus showing also a tendency to the Siam race *annectens*. The largest from Nepal of course grades right through to the smallest, *gularis* (w. 87-94) from Java, a very good instance of diminution in size of a species from north to south.

Indian Common Wood-Shrike (*Tephrodornis p. pondiceriana*). 29, 76, 313.

'Constant resident in Pegu and breeds in March.' (Oates).

I found it fairly common in *indaing* jungle, nearly always high up in trees and in small flocks. Not seen in the Arakan hills where I only found *pelvica*. A ♂, shot while singing, crouched flat on a branch, on March 29, 1929, was undoubtedly breeding. It had a shrill warbling song.

[These are nearest to the typical race.]

Burmese Scarlet Minivet (*Pericrocotus speciosus elegans*). 202, 367, 368.

Oates found it over the whole of Pegu. I saw several but collected few minivets and found them very hard to distinguish in the field. Two were obtained at 2,500 ft. in the Arakan hills where it appeared to be common and breeding.

[♂ w. 96, t. 90; 2 ♀♀ w. 88-92, t. 86-88. The male has the whole of the outer web of the central tail feathers red and the first three primaries lack the red spot. In the females the first three primaries lack the yellow spot.

The following races must be considered:—

fraterculus.—Described from Hainan. Eleven males thence w. 94-98. First two primaries plain in ♂, first three in ♀. Central tail feathers *wholly* black or occasionally edged with red on distal half of outer web. Out of over twenty males examined from Burma, only two have the central tail feathers black (one from Karennee and one from Kyoukkyo) but they agree with *fraterculus* in the spots on the primaries. These are what the older writers called *elegans* and I cannot unite them with *fraterculus* as is done in the *Fauna*, ed. ii.

flammifer.—Described from Pakchan (Bankasoon) in S. Tenasserim. Nine males thence w. 89-93, one 95.5. First three primaries plain in the male (two from Bankasoon, first two primaries plain); first four primaries plain in most females (first three plain in one 'S. Tenasserim' and two from Trang; first two primaries plain in one from Thayet District). Outer webs of central tail feathers in male *red* (except one). It will be seen therefore that *flammifer* from the type district is not quite constant in character. When, however, birds from Malay are examined, it is found that the tendency to shorter wings is more pronounced (none exceed 91 mm.; the red on the outer web of the central tail is constant and the first three primaries in males are always without the spot. It is unfortunate that *flammifer* was not described from N. Malay.

It will be seen therefore that the male from the Arakan hills agrees with *flammifer* in the spotting of the primaries but is rather large. The females

however do not agree with *flammifer* in having the first three primaries plain instead of the first four.

Maclelland's *elegans* was obtained in Assam probably in the Khasia Hills. There seems no doubt that this bird of Maclelland's is the eastern representative of *speciosus*. The type, a ♂, has a wing of 97 mm. and a series from Dibrugarh and the Khasia Hills measure 11 ♂ w. 95-102; the typical race from Sikkim ♂ w. 102-105; *elegans* then must stand for the Assam-Burmese race; somewhere it may grade into *fraterculus* as it certainly does into *flammifer* in the Peninsular of Burma, which again grades into *xanthogaster* further south still.]

Rosy Minivet (*Pericrocotus roseus roseus*). ♂ 173.

'Abundant over whole of Pegu' (Oates). Henricks obtained a male at Prome on 16th February.

[This bird is in heavy body moult. The moults of all the minivets require study. Apparently *roseus* has an ante-nuptial moult though I do not think all minivets have; another point which requires elucidation is—in which of the Minivets do the males breed in the female dress?]

Burmese Small Minivet (*Pericrocotus peregrinus vividus*). 147.

'Throughout Pegu and Arakan.' (Oates). I shot one out of a large mixed party on 11th February in *indaing* jungle, which included Ioras, *Hemipus pictus* and *Sitta neglecta*.

[A female on 11th February shows slight moult on the throat.]

Siamese Large Cuckoo-Shrike (*Graucalus macci siamensis*). 4. 208.

Common in certain localities in the plains in sparse tree-jungle. I did not see it at all in the Arakan hills in April, though Oates procured it there. It is partial to peepul-trees, and when three or four birds are chasing and fighting each other round one of these, they much resemble in flight, notes and habits? the British Missel-Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*). I have occasionally seen it feeding on the ground.

Pale Grey Cuckoo-Shrike (*Lalage melachista siamensis*). 139.

Oates describes it as spread over the whole of Pegu.

The only ones I saw in Prome were a ♀ shot in the Arakan foot-hills, west of Tonbo, on 7th February and one or two seen in the hills at 2,400 feet in April, 1929.

Ashy Swallow-Shrike (*Artamus fuscus*). 113.

Common and probably resident. The one shot at Tarokmaw was in a flock apparently feeding on insects on a *letpanbin* (cotton tree) in flower. Not seen breeding.

Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocerus*). Burmese:—*hngel-taw*, 9.

Oates considered this bird to be a migrant in Pegu from October to January, and in 'the other months it is either absent or very rare'. With this view I agree. I did not see any in the Arakan hills in April.

[A female w. 142, t. 163, on measurements might be one of four races: *cathæcus* is the form recognized in Central Burma.

Burmese Grey Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophæus*). 73, 228.

Common in the cold weather in teak and *indaing* jungle. Oates considered it a resident. Specimens were obtained at Kandin on 24th January and at Ngaphaw on 27th February.

[A male from Ngaphaw off 27th February, w. 143, t. 154, fork 54; a female from Kandin, 24th January, w. 135, t. 145, fork 50. Both these birds are the Pale Ashy Drongo. A great deal more work is required over the Drongos of India and Burma before the races and their distribution can be understood and it would be useless and misleading to attempt to give these birds a trinomial name.

Mr. Stuart Baker on the one hand and Messrs. Robinson and Kloss on the other have attempted to solve the problem and have both come to entirely different conclusions. Mr. Baker finds that there is only one Ashy Drongo, extending from N. W. Himalayas to South India and to Java, which can be

split up into races on average length of wing and tail and that coloration—dark or pale—is of little moment. Messrs. Robinson and Kloss consider, as did Hume and Oates, that there are two species, the Dark Ashy Drongo *longicaudatus* and the Pale Ashy Drongo *leucophaeus*, both of which over these areas have races. As regards this question, I would remark that, so far as I have seen—a fair series—Drongos vary in size according to sex, and it is therefore perfectly useless dividing up races on average measurements of unsexed or incorrectly sexed specimens. What we want as regards Burma is a good series of correctly sexed breeding birds and winter birds from various places together with field notes as to whether the light and dark forms exist side by side or whether one form is a winter visitor.]

Bronzed Drongo (*Chaptalia ænea ænea*). 67, 68, 325, 388.

Very local. Henricks shot two at Kandin on 24th January and several were seen. Another was obtained at Sinde on the west bank of the Irrawaddy on 15th March. This Drongo appeared to be the only one at all common in the Arakan hills in April 1929 where it was breeding.

[♂ Arakan hills, w. 118 t. 110; three from Kandin and Prome, w. 118–126 t. 115–123. A toptotypical series of *ænea* measure w. 113–130 and of *malayensis* w. 105–118. These Prome birds are therefore nearer the typical race.]

Burmese Large Racquet-tailed Drongo (*Dissemurus rangoonensis*). 28.

Common.

[I can confirm Mr. Salim Ali's observation that the racquet at the extremity of the outer tail feathers is formed by the inner web and that the shaft of the feather is twisted in its long axis.]

Indian Hair-crested Drongo (*Chibia hottentotta hottentotta*).

Oates (i. 227) found it abundant north of Prome and at Nyaungchidauk at the foot of the Arakan Hills. I did not obtain it in April 1929.

Eastern Great Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus orientalis*). ♀♀ 107, 298.

I shot a ♀ at Kyithe on 2nd February on the Letpanbu jheel and another on 22nd March. It appears from Oates to be a winter visitor only. Both those I shot were great skulkers.

Schrenck's Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*). 148.

Oates described it as common. I shot a male on the Letpanbu jheel on 1st February, 1929, and saw several others, exceedingly shy.

Indian Tailor Bird (*Orthotomus sutorius patia*). ♂♂ 64, 404.

In this part of Burma it is a most inveterate skulker, never seen outside dense bamboo clumps, and, except for its note, would rarely be observed. I got one in the Arakan hills at about 2,000 ft. in April.

Streaked Fantail Warbler (*Cisticola juncidis cursifans*). ♂ 58.

Extremely common along the Irrawaddy valley.

Franklin's Wren-Warbler (*Franklinia gracilis*). ♂ 75.

Probably common. The only one shot was out of a travelling party in bamboo jungle near Kandin on 24th January 1929.

Beavan's Wren-Warbler (*Franklinia r. rufescens*). 30, 198, 264, 334, 336.

Oates describes it as common at the foot of the Arakan hills on the eastern side. I obtained birds on an island north of Prome in high grass on 22nd February, two near Paukkaung in January and March, and two at 3,000 ft. in April 1929 near Nyaunggyo, where in the grass of the open jungle it appeared to be not uncommon.

[The two birds from Nyaunggyo on 3rd April are undergoing a complete moult. The January bird from Paukkaung is a juvenile.]

Striated Marsh-Warbler (*Megalurus palustris palustris*). ♂ 37. ♂ 145.

Very common in the Irrawaddy valley, (Oates saw it at Thayetmyo) where it breeds. The only nest found by me contained 3 incubated eggs on 30th May.

It was in an isolated tuft of grass on the bank of a paddy field. It breeds in some numbers in the south of the district in the big pea-fields near Letpankaya. Probably resident.

Thick-billed Warbler (*Phragmaticola ædon*). ♂♂ 137, 185.

I shot a single bird skulking in scrub jungle, west of the Irrawaddy near Tonbo on 7th February, and another single bird near Prome on 17th February, also exceedingly shy. Both these were far from water on dry hillsides. It is noteworthy that Oates usually found it near water and not a skulker.

Burmese Yellow-bellied Flycatcher-Warbler (*Abrornis superciliaris* subsp. ?) ♀ 348.

Oates says he got this bird in various parts of Pegu but that it was rare. I shot a ♀ at Nyaunggyo at 2,400 ft. on 3rd April, 1929.

[The types of *Abrornis superciliaris* came from Tenasserim and not, as Mr. Stuart Baker states in the *Fauna*, from the Himalayas. The latter bird should be called *flaviventris*, Jerdon, type loc., Sikkim. *Salwinensis* of Baker becomes a synonym of *superciliaris*. This single bird from Arakan does not quite match *flaviventris* or yet *superciliaris* as exemplified by series from the type localities. Possibly a distinguishable race inhabits Arakan. The series from Burma in the British Museum is not good.]

Burmese Wren-Warbler (*Prinia inornata burmanica*). Local name: *Hngel-letmat*. 38, 94, 132, 194.

Common along the Irrawaddy valley.

[The tail measurements of these four birds obtained in January and February range from 55.5 to 77 mm. considerably longer than that given in the *Fauna*. I may here note that in the latter work the type locality of *Prinia inornata blanfordi* is given as Thayetmyo; it should be Tounghoo.]

Yellow bellied Wren-Warbler (*Prinia f. flaviventris*). ♂ 140.

Paired and singing in its breeding quarters by early February, the favourite haunt being the huge stretches of *kaing* grass on the Irrawaddy islands. I have seen nothing to indicate that the snapping sound is made by the wings as suggested in the *Fauna*. The few well-known birds which clap their wings, e. g., Nightjars and the Long-eared Owl, produce a very different type of sound by this means.

[The 'snapping' noise is made by several species of *Prinia* and appears to me to be made by the bill.]

Fairy Blue-Bird (*Irena p. puella*). 332, 347, 348, 366.

Oates found it in evergreen forest on the Pegu hills but 'not on the western slopes'. I found it only in evergreen forest at 2,400 ft. in the Arakan hills where it was common, though very shy.

[One male on 3rd April in full female dress. Here and there on the head and body there are adult feathers (blue) in quill, the result of accidental loss of feathers of the old dress. Birds which live in heavy jungle may frequently lose odd feathers by accident and in the case of those which are still in immature dress, the replacing feathers are those of the adult plumage. This I believe to be the explanation of these mixed plumages seen often in *Irena Pericrocotus*, *Hemipus* and others, and there is no reason to suppose a colour change without moult to explain it.]

Burmese Black-necked Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis tenuirostris*). Local name: *Hngel-wa*. ♀ 10, ♀ 126.

Oates did not find this in the 'dry parts of northern Pegu' and considered it a winter visitor only. Both those obtained by me were in the cold weather, but without shooting a large number it was difficult to distinguish species.

Indian Black-headed Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus xanthornus*). 104, 276, 284.

Common and apparently resident.

[A male on 1st February has the throat and chin grey, streaked with black, and the wings and tail not so pure and bright as in the adult. Probably a bird of the first year.]

Maroon Oriole (*Oriolus trailii*).

Oates received it from Arakan. I never saw it.

Indian Grackle (*Eulabes javana intermedia*).

Not common and seen principally by me in pairs in the hills between 1,000 and 2,000 ft. Frequently kept by Burmans as a cagebird. I did not collect any.

Assam Spotted-winged Stare (*Psaroglossa s. assamensis*). 119.

Henricks shot a ♀ at Tarokmaw on the Irrawaddy on 4th February 1929. I have never seen it and think it must be rare. Oates never saw it and records it from only two places in the Pegu Division.

Grey-headed Myna (*Sturnia malabarica nemoricola*). 3, 97, 253.

Usually seen in small parties in tree-tops from November to March. Usually seen feeding in a mango tree. I shot another solitary bird in March coming to roost in bushes with large numbers of Pied-Mynahs in the Nawin marshes. Not seen breeding nor in the Arakan hills in April.

[One of these birds, quite an adult otherwise, has the winglet and primary coverts black instead of white. Such variations in *nemoricola* have several times been recorded.]

Jerdon's Myna (*Gracupica burmanica*). 195, 418.

Oates described it as 'very abundant in Northern Pegu,' and resident. I saw very large flocks on 17th April on the Irrawaddy near Prome. Quite common.

Common Myna (*Acridotheres t. tristis*).

Common. Breeds in March.

Indian Jungle Myna (*Ethiopsar f. fuscus*). 124, 252.

Common. I saw several flocks apparently on migration on the Nawin marshes in March.

Burmese Pied Myna (*Sturnopastor capensis superciliaris*). 121.

Common. I failed to observe its migration. Oates describes it as 'more or less absent from the Thayetmyo area in October and November.'

Baya (*Ploceus philippinus*). Local name: *Sà-pōngyi*. 218, 219, 220.

Three were shot by Henricks out of a flock at Ngaphaw on 27th February on a large tank close to the village. I regret very much that I did not collect any breeding birds but Oates describes *Ploceus baya* as being abundant all over Burma, and this was apparently the bird he meant. I saw at least two species of Baya breeding in vast numbers in a large reed-bed on the Nawin marshes just north of Prome in the rains.

[There is not the slightest doubt that these birds, in non-breeding dress, are *not passerinus*. They are very pale birds and can be matched with birds from Sind and Ceylon in similar dress. *wg.* 69-71. The *Fauna* does not admit *P. philippinus* as an inhabitant of Burma. It is to be hoped that Mr. Stanford will be able to procure some breeding birds from this colony. There was in the past considerable confusion over the names of the Bayas, which even to-day is not entirely cleared up. According to Hume, *Ploceus baya* was the Eastern Baya now called *Ploceus passerinus passerinus* Reichenow. Oates (*Fauna*, ed. j) used *P. baya* for the Indian Baya and the mysterious *P. megarhynchus* of Hume for the Eastern Bayas. The latter, however, Mr. Baker considers to be a third species. Unfortunately *Ploceus passerinus* is a pure synonym of *Ploceus baya* (*vide*—Horsfield and Moore's catalogue.)

Golden Weaver-Bird (*Ploceella chrysæa*). 43, 44.

Two birds obtained out of a flock on stubble near Prome close to the breeding colony mentioned above on 20th January were of this species. Oates found it abundant but local in Southern Pegu.

[Just finishing a complete moult.]

Burmese Striated Weaver-Bird (*Ploceus manyar flaviceps*). 87.

One obtained at Prome on 27th January, 1929, out of a large flock on the Nawin, close to the breeding-ground mentioned above.

[This bird does not look like an abnormality; it certainly, however, does not tally with the dark richly coloured *peguensis*. It is exactly like Sind birds in similar dress which I have called *flaviceps*. This latter race was described from Southern India and the series thence in the British Museum is such a poor one that I do not feel satisfied that the Sind birds differ from it, hence I use the older name; if the two races should prove to be distinguishable, the Sind bird must be called *striatus*.]

White-backed Munia (*Uroloncha striata* subsp. ?). 386.

The only place where I saw this bird was between 2,000 ft. and 3,000 ft. along the Taungup road in the Arakan hills in April 1930, where it was in considerable flocks feeding on a flowering weed and in bushes along streams. On being disturbed, the flocks would fly round and suddenly settle and disappear in the dense growth. Oates describes *Amadina striata* (B. B. i. 365) as being recorded by Blyth from Arakan.

[This munia too is very puzzling, and I cannot match it with any race. It is blacker on the head and ear-coverts than any Burmese bird and in this respect is quite like the South Indian bird. However, unlike the latter, it has a grizzled and not a pure white abdomen. More specimens from the Arakan Hills are needed.]

Burmese Spotted Munia (*Uroloncha punctulata subundulata*). ♂ ♀ 186, 187.

This bird is not uncommon, but I did not collect a series. It is partial to breeding in houses and gardens, especially in bushes. Roosts in bamboo and is probably resident.

Burmese Red Munia (*Amandava flavidiventris*).

I saw a flock near Nyaungsaye in January 1929 near the Irrawaddy, but otherwise did not notice it.

Burmese House-Sparrow (*Passer domesticus nigricollis*). 289.

In my opinion *P. montanus* is the common sparrow of the district, and one that mainly frequents houses. In some dak-bungalows, notably Padaung, both House, Tree and Pegu Sparrows all breed in a colony. Oates remarks that *domesticus* was outnumbered by the next species in most parts of Burma.

[If the Burmese House-Sparrow is not different to the South Indian, then *nigricollis* of Burton is an older name for it than *confucius*.]

Indian Tree-Sparrow (*Passer montanus malaccensis*). 287, 288.

As Ticehurst remarks, this sparrow is really the House-Sparrow of the east. In the hot weather it feeds largely on flies and insects, and comes into houses with great familiarity. Does not seem in this district to be ousted by the House-Sparrows. Stuart Baker (iii. 177) confines *malaccensis* to the hills of Burma, whereas it is very abundant in the plains. A male shot at Padaung in March was killed while sitting with a female *flaveolus*. I should not be surprised if they occasionally inter-breed.

Pegu House-Sparrow (*Passer flaveolus*). ♂ ♂ ♀ ♀ 221, 222, 223, 224, 290, 306.

Oates describes it as 'comparatively' rare except about Thayetmyo. This is now a very common bird in the drier parts of the district and the Irrawaddy valley. It breeds in large numbers in certain dak-bungalows, notably Pauk-kaung and Padaung, and in company with *domesticus* and *montanus*. In November 1927 and again on 24th March 1928, I saw flocks apparently on passage near Prome.

Grey-headed Bunting (*Emberiza f. fucata*).

Oates recorded it from between Toungoo and Thayetmyo. I did not obtain it.

Little Bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*). 133, 135, 392.

Oates has no record of this bird from the Pegu Division or Arakan, and Stuart Baker describes it as a Tree-Bunting, not uncommon in the Assam

foothills. I am inclined to think that all those obtained by me were on migration. On 6th February, 1929, I shot one out of a pea-field near Tarokmaw on the Irrawaddy, thinking as it rose that it was a Red-throated Pipit. On 7th February, I got another single bird near Tonbo, 10 miles further up the Irrawaddy, in a stream running through dense jungle. On 9th April I shot one in the Nyaunggyo stream at 2,400 ft. out of bushes, and on 10th April got one out of a small party on the Arakan side of the Taungup Pass on a grass covered hillside at 3,000 ft. I should think that this bird was easily overlooked. It reminded me of a very small Lapland Bunting in appearance.

Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*). Local name : *Sa-ni*. 23, 46, 101, 157, 196, 271, 301.

Extremely common from November to March in very large flocks. Roosts in bushes. Large flocks seen as late as the third week in March, though Oates records that they stay till May. On 24th March, 1928, I saw large flocks along the Irrawaddy apparently on passage. Occasionally a very big movement of these birds to roost at dusk may be observed as in the case of Swallows.

[The males on 23rd March are moulting the feathers of the face; the yellow supercilium, dusky and yellow ear coverts and forehead and yellow chin of winter become black. No moult elsewhere. 6 ♂♂ wg. 73-80; 2 ♀♀ 72-75.]

Chestnut Bunting (*Emberiza rutila*). 13, 338, 359, 377, 378, 397.

Oates recorded it on the authority of Hume, and never apparently met with it. He mentions that it was the 'common bunting of the higher Karen hills.' I only met it twice. On 17th January, 1929, I shot one out of a small flock in teak jungle near Paukkaung (100 ft.) on the edge of the forest reserve. In April 1929, I found it very common at about 2,400 ft. near Nyaunggyo. All I saw were feeding on the seeds of the Telegu bamboo (*Dendrocalamus longispatus*), and, on being disturbed, disappeared into high tree-jungle. On April 11, I followed the direction taken by flocks in the late afternoon and found several hundreds congregating to roost in a deep hollow, full of bushes and rough grass, alongside the Taungup road, every bush being full of them. A good many Tree-Pipits were roosting in the same place. In appearance and flight these birds, when feeding, reminded me much of Lesser Redpolls and are unlike other buntings in their partiality for trees.

[These Buntings in the first week of April are also moulting the face. One male, presumably of the previous year, differs from the adult in having the mantle olivaceous with dark brown central streaks and the greater coverts brown with olivaceous edges which parts in the adult are chestnut. 4 ♂♂ w. 73-5-77, 2 ♀♀ w. 67-70.]

Crested Bunting (*Melophus melanicterus*). ♀ 389.

I shot a female on 10th April, 1929, at about 3,000 ft. about 3 miles east of the Taungup Pass on the road, the only one ever seen by me. Oates never met it in the Pegu Division though it was recorded by Blyth. I doubt if it will be found in the district except along the summit of the Arakan Hills.

Indian Sand-Martin (*Riparia paludicola chinensis*).

Breeds in very large numbers along the Irrawaddy and larger streams running into it. It certainly breeds from December onwards and probably throughout the cold weather. I did not collect any; so am unable to say if *ijimae* also occurs.

Eastern Swallow (*Hirundo rustica gutturalis*). 60, 170, 171.

Oates says he saw nothing to suggest that this bird bred in Burma. Nor have I. It is found in very large numbers from September to April mainly along the river in Prome.

[Wings 108.5-115. On 17th February, one bird is performing a complete moult.]

Striated Swallow (*Hirundo rufula japonica*). 239, 240.

I shot 2 or 3 Striated Swallows and saw many others resting on the sands near Shwedauang on 3rd March, 1929, two in juvenile plumage being obtained. One or two were seen near Nyaunggyo in April 1929, apparently on migration,

[As I have already pointed out (*B.N.H.S. Journ.*, xxxii., 1, p. 350), Red-rumpde Swallows of the *nepalensis* type wintering or on passage in Burma are rather larger and rather more heavily spotted than the Himalayan breeding birds, and the name applicable is *japonica*. These three birds from Shwedaung are in full moult; w. 116.5-123 and on the whole are more heavily streaked than *nepalensis*. They are too small and not heavily streaked enough for *striolata*.]

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba leucopsis*). 117.

Common throughout the cold weather. No signs of any breeding. In early February 1929, a considerable number of single males were seen in the Irrawaddy valley, apparently on migration. I saw large numbers flocking to roost on the Sidaing Stream at dusk in February 1928 in an area where only scattered birds could be seen by day.

[A single bird obtained on 4th February is moulting the body feathers, two central pairs of tail feathers and the lesser and median wing coverts.]

Eastern Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea caspica*).

Fairly common all over the district in suitable places from September to March or April. I did not collect any. Never seen except singly or in pairs. A newly-arrived migrant appeared in my garden at Insein, far from water, on 29th September, 1929, and another in my garden at Prome in late September 1927.

Grey-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava simillima*). 36, 126, 303.

One yellow wagtail in this district is very common and arrives in immense numbers in September and stays till March. Nearly all I have watched on the ground appear to have no supercilium and to be extremely dark if not black on the head, lores and ear coverts throughout the winter. Once in October I witnessed a most remarkable movement of these Wagtails northwards along the river at Prome, hundreds high in air, flying presumably to some roosting place.

[These three Wagtails of the *flava* group are about as bad as they could be for identification work; one is unsexed, one almost certainly sexed wrongly, and all three are in very abraded dress. They are certainly near *simillima* with dark slate heads and ear coverts, one has a narrow white supercilium, while in another this is yellow, in the third absent. Fresh plumaged birds are required for proper identification. All these three birds have longer bills than *thunbergi* and have a characteristic of *simillima*.

Yellow-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola citreola*). ♀ 146.

Not uncommon but nearly always found singly on the large swamps and jheels of the Irrawaddy valley in the close vicinity of water. Oates (i. 193) did not meet with it and records only one specimen from Papun. I saw one as late as 11th April, 1928, near Okshitpin in the Arakan foot hills.

Forest Wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*). 227, 251.

Only seen by Oates once or twice in the Pegu Division. I think it is easily overlooked on account of its very weak note and its habit of sitting still close to an intruder. In three months I saw specimens in several widely distributed places; on 24th February at Padinbin, and again on 27th February at Ngaphaw, both in the Pegu Yoma foothills. I obtained one out of a pair on the edge of the Irrawaddy in thin scrub jungle on 6th March and saw another on 17th April in the same place. On 10th April, at about 3,000 ft. near the Taungup Pass, I saw one or two, which, from their excited manner, appeared to be breeding. On the ground this bird creeps about and looks much more like a Pipit than a Wagtail, and when disturbed usually flies up into a tree. It is common in the Insein district within a few miles of Rangoon.

[A bird on 27th February is moulting on the chin and throat. This curious bird exactly bridges the two genera *Motacilla* and *Anthus* and if the genus *Dendronanthus* were dropped, there would be little ground for keeping the other two genera separate. The tail in the Forest Wagtail is short but not shorter than in *M. flava pygmaea*. The central tail feathers are shorter than the rest and are differently coloured, as also in the Pipits. The hind claw resembles that of the smaller Pipits more than that of a Wagtail. The plumage generally is much more reminiscent of a Wagtail, especially *M. capensis*, than of a Pipit.]

Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi richardi*). 39, 40, 47, 134. Local name: *Sábadi*.

I shot numerous specimens on open ground and in *Kaing*-cultivation all along the Irrawaddy valley, it being partial to dry sandy areas. Its great size, sharp single note and flight are most noticeable. I have no reason to suppose it breeds. Oates remarks that he does not recollect ever seeing any near Prome and Thayetmyo. I should say it was a winter visitor in fair numbers from September to March.

Indian Pipit (*Anthus rufulus rufulus*). 93.

Oates describes it as very abundant 'except in the dry northern parts near Prome'. In my opinion it was commoner in the dry parts of the district, particularly in the islands of the Irrawaddy valley. I did not observe it breeding.

Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*). 41, 55, 56, 131, 302.

Very common from January to March along the Irrawaddy. All I saw were on *kaing*-cultivation or along the edges of the sheets of water left when the river falls, in fact, of all the Pিপits, this was the only one I saw constantly frequenting wet sand. On the wing it is noticeably dark and has a strong flight, much reminiscent of the Lapland Bunting. Did not seem to mix with other birds, nor did I see it in the Arakan Hills.

Indian Tree-Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni*). 17, 18, 47, 250, 272.

Very common from mid-September to the end of March and found all over the district. It is generally in small flocks, under the shade of trees, flying up when disturbed. I saw a very large flock at Nyaunggyo (2,400 ft.) during the first week in April 1929, apparently on migration, and found a large number one night coming in to roost in a pit with *Emberiza rutila*.

[A bird on 20th March is moulting the body plumage and part of the tail. Birds obtained prior to this date shed no moult.]

Indian Skylark (*Alauda gulgula gulgula*). ♂ 59, 88.

I never observed this bird except in ones and twos along the Irrawaddy valley; but judging by the number heard singing in the early mornings in January and February over the pea-fields in this area, it is fairly numerous. It is the earliest bird to commence singing, long before it is really light. It is noteworthy that *A. gulgula* was considered by Oates as 'apparently absent in the Irrawaddy valley from the head of the Delta up to the frontier,' which really means the Prome and Thayetmyo area. This bird starts to sing in mid-November.

[I cannot separate these two birds from the typical race and *peguensis* seems to be a synonym. The differences relied on by Oates (S. F. iii, p. 343), do not appear to be constant.]

Ganges Sand-Lark (*Calandrella raytal raytal*). ♀ ♂ 53, 54, 305.

Oates (i. 374) describes it as confined 'to the sandbanks of the Irrawaddy between Prome and the frontier.' I found it common throughout the riverain part of the district, and it will probably be found also south of Kyangin in Henzada and Tharrawaddy, at any rate in the hot weather. It is extremely tame and can be observed at any time scavenging among the debris just outside fishermen's huts. It is rarely seen in pea-fields and only on the barest, most open stretches of sand. I watched birds pairing and fighting in January, but failed to discover any nests. It would be interesting to know where the bird resorts to when the river is in flood and for forty miles every island and sand-bank is blotted out. Occasionally in December and January, I have seen parties of 20 or 30 apparently gathered for shade on the edge of a steep bank just above high-water mark.

Burmese Bush-Lark (*Mirafra assamica microptera*). ♂ ♂ 8, 322.

This bird is as local as the English Wood-lark and replaces *Alauda gulgula* in the drier northern part of the district wherever there are trees, fallow and bush-jungle. I saw no signs of it in the Arakan hills. One or two shot by me had a curious swollen condition of the toes. Oates found it abundant at Thayetmyo and did not observe it anywhere else,

White-Eye (*Zosterops palpebrosa palpebrosa*). ♀ 394.

The only one obtained by me was at 3,000 ft. on 10th April, 1929, about a mile east of the Taungup Pass into Arakan out of a small party. This species was observed by Fielden at Thayetmyo (Oates i. 342), and *Z. simplex peguensis* has been found breeding near Thayetmyo.

Pegu Streaked Spider-Hunter (*Arachnothera magna aurata*). ♂ ♀ 203, 294.

Henricks obtained a pair at Theme in the Pegu Yoma foothills on 24th February, 1929. The only other Spider-hunters seen by me were a pair at 3,000 ft. near Nyaunggyo which I failed to obtain.

Mackenzie (S. R. iii. 417) found them 'by no means rare' in Prome and took nests in July and August 1918-19. Oates observed it at Thayetmyo.

[The typical form is recorded for Arakan; these two Prome birds are however certainly *aurata*.]

Burmese Scarlet-backed Flower-Pecker (*Dicaeum cruentatum ignitum*). 31, 320, 321.

Very common. Specimens were obtained on 19th January and on 30th March on which date I got two out of a family party in a mango tree which had clearly only just left the nest.

[The juvenile plumage:—Upper parts dull olivaceous; upper tail coverts rusty red; underparts dull grey with a slight olive wash on the flanks; wings and tail black with very slight gloss; wing coverts and tertials edged olivaceous.]

Burmese Purple Sunbird (*Leptocoma asiatica intermedia*). 66, 192, 197, 353.

Not uncommon. I obtained several near Prome and one in the Arakan hills on 4th April, 1929, at 3,000 ft. out of a small flock.

The Malayan Ruby-Cheek (*Chalcoparia s. singalensis*).

Oates (i. 326) notes that he did not see it in Prome though it occurred in similar country east of the *Yoma*.

Pitta.

I saw no Pittas at all, though I was closely on the watch for them in Nyaunggyo in April 1929.

Blue-naped Pitta (*Pitta nepalensis*).

Oates's collectors (i. 412) got one 'on the Arakan hills near Nyaunggyo' so that the distribution in the *Fauna* (iii. 445) should probably be altered to include *South Arakan*.

Green-breasted Pitta (*Pitta c. cucullata*).

Oates found it plentiful on the *Yoma* between Thayetmyo and Toungoo, so it probably occurs on the Prome-Toungoo watershed.

Lesser Blue-winged Pitta (*Pitta moluccensis*).

Oates (i. 415) apparently had specimens brought him from 'Arakan' by his collectors.

Arakan Black-and-Red Broadbill (*Cymbirhynchus affinis*).

Oates obtained this bird 'near Nyaunggyo.' I saw no signs of it there and Broadbills were remarkably scarce in April 1928 and 1929.

Long-tailed Broadbill (*Psarisomus dalhousiae*).

Oates observed it on the hills of the Thayetmyo-Toungoo border. It was only seen by me near Nyaunggyo in the Arakan hills, where in ten days careful search in April 1929, I only saw one bird and had another brought me on 7th April. I watched a pair building on 14th April, 1928, in evergreen jungle overhanging the Nyaunggyo stream. The nest was a huge bundle of black *hairs* (from what animal I know not, probably an ox) and fibrous roots hanging from the tip of a bough. Both birds assisted in building and were very parrot-like in their actions. One was exceedingly tame and sat near me swinging its tail like a Shrike. I saw another similar old nest on the same stream in April 1929 suspended from a bamboo tip.

(To be continued.)